



Date: April 25, 2005
To: Members of the Marine Advisory Commission
From: Mark A. Sandoval, Manager of Marinas and Beaches
Subject: MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 7, 2005
MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION (MAC)

Commissioners Present

Richard L. Miller, Chair
Bradley Whyte, Vice Chair
Mike Malbon
Mike Reed
Harry Hutton
Holly Carpenter
Peter Hogenson
David Calhoun
Randy Crawford

Marine Bureau Personnel

Mark Sandoval, Manager, Marine Bureau
Vivian Crook, Secretary, Marine Bureau

City Staff

Mark Boone, Chief, Marine Safety, LBFD
Tom Keleher, LBPD Sergeant, Marine Patrol
Dave Akins, Officer, Marine Patrol
Jeff Edwards, Supt., Marine Maint.

Commissioners Absent

Guests

Amy Bently-Smith, Grunion Gazette
Don Cobleigh, LBMBOA
Bud Johnson, DBW Commissioner
Chris Pook, Sea Festival Representative
Mike LoGrande, boatowner (temporary assignment)

Chairman Miller convened the meeting at 2:35 p.m., at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

ROLL CALL

Mark Sandoval called the roll of commissioners and introduced Marine Bureau personnel, City staff, and guests.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The February 10, 2005, MAC minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted. No meeting was held in March.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- Mark Sandoval gave a quick review of the Marina Rate Comparison and asked the MAC to receive and file the report. He said that the report had been provided for information purposes.

It was moved by Commissioner Malbon and seconded by Vice Chairman Whyte that the MAC receive and file the Marina Rate Comparison report. The motion passed unanimously.

- Mark Sandoval spoke to the issue of the Temporary Authorization (TA) Program, and stated that he developed the TA program years ago for use during the summer months, mostly for boatowners with smaller boats. He explained that monies were collected up front on a month-to-month basis, for a total of four months. This program was then expanded to three, three-month periods for a total of nine months to fill slips during the rebuild. The reason that the Bureau needs to maintain empty slips in certain sizes is because after the rebuild these slips will not exist. The reason for the limited or temporary stay was to demonstrate to Waiting List applicants that this program would not circumvent their wait on the list. Also, this would prevent the temporary slip holder from feeling as if they were permanent. Unfortunately, these boatowners did not want to leave the marina after their nine months were up, and started voicing complaints, calling their council people, and writing letters to the newspaper editor. This caused a lot of pressure on staff who had to deal with the constant calls, and complaints, and some political. Three weeks ago the TA program was halted because it wasn't worth the problems that resulted from people not wanting to leave, even after they signed a contract saying they would. Mark said that he does want to provide a temporary program that will accommodate those boaters who want to make use of slips on a temporary basis, and are willing to abide by the rules of the program.

Vice Chairman Whyte stated that it was a shame that such a good concept had become a problem for the Bureau. He suggested that the slip fees be increased for TAs, and that the program be changed to two, three-month periods (six months total), making it a little harder for boaters to feel permanent. Also, he suggested that the concept of the TA program be written in the contract, outlining why the TA program is in existence, and how it works so that boaters can better understand the program.

Commissioner Hutton said that the City should work together to support the Bureau's rules and regulations.

Mark Sandoval remarked that many TAs do not have a place to go. Many have bought boats without first having found a permanent place for them. He said that the only reason there are open slips at this time, is because of the rebuild. The Bureau is filling slips from the waiting list, above what is needed for the rebuild. Mark said that he does not want to break his promise to the current boatowners, that they will not lose their slip during the rebuild.

Commissioner Crawford remarked that the signed TA document should be enforced, and that the MAC should endorse the Bureau Manager and his enforcement of the rules.

Chairman Miller remarked that staff should be trained to better help customers understand the TA program.

Commissioner Carpenter remarked that the Commissioners give of their time to review the Marine Bureau policies and procedures and expressed concern that the City Council would have such little respect for what they do.

Mark Sandoval did explain that this was not the view of all Council people. He told of a councilperson who had a relative in the TA program. This councilperson informed Mark that their relative should be treated just like any other boatowner when applying the rules.

Bud Johnson commented that he when he operated his marina, temporary slip holders were allowed to stay no more than nine months in order that they not be considered permanent. Two months before the end of their nine-month period, he would send a certified letter reminding them that their time would soon be up.

Mike LeGronde, a TA in ABM, stated that Stephanie Hardy, the Permit Agent in ABM, explained to him exactly how TA system works. He said that he had to make an appointment so that the rules could be reviewed with him, and that he signed a form stating that he understood the rules. He said that the rules of the program are spelled out and made clear, and that staff is very knowledgeable. He said he understands the rules very well and that he supports Mark Sandoval and the rules in place. He remarked that staff has been great to work with, and stated that the slips are well maintained, that the Marine Patrol officers walk the docks, the slips are affordable, and he has quick access to the coast. He said that the rules do not need to be changed, but did ask that Long Beach residents be given priority for slips.

Mark Sandoval responded that by State law the City cannot differentiate between a Long Beach resident and a non-Long Beach resident. He also said that he doesn't want to eliminate this program, as it does provide a service to certain boaters.

Commissioner Malbon suggested that the program continue as is, and that the suggestions made in the Operations Committee be reviewed for implementation.

It was moved by Commissioner Crawford and seconded by Commissioner Hutton that the MAC endorse the Marine Bureau Manager and the Temporary Authorization Program, with improvements if needed, and that the rules of the program be enforced. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- Chris Pook gave a presentation on the Sea Festival and future events. He remarked that the Sea Festival has been in Long Beach for more than 50 years, and that it was initially funded by the Long Beach Convention and Visitor Bureau as part of their annual budget. In 1978, it was transferred to the Department of Recreation. Mr. Pook said that he was approached by the City Manager, who asked him to look at taking the concept of the Sea Festival to the next level. He talked about his vision for bigger and better Sea Festival events. He is interested in creating a series of well-balanced programs to attract visitors to our City from greater Los Angeles, Arizona, and Nevada. He would like to create a non-profit company that will administer all Sea Festival events and make sure that event operators are financially faithful and capable of putting on events in a professional manner. He said that this would not happen overnight, that it would take a few years to make happen. He stated that any monies made would go back into the community.

Mark Sandoval remarked that in recent years City of Long Beach resources have dwindled and this new approach will create organization that will provide resources to fund these activities. He said that the City will play a major role in the organization of the over-site committee. He stated that the City has historically provided staff during the Sea Festival, and that event promoters already pay for their events, that big events are pretty much self-funding.

Commissioner Carpenter remarked that she felt it important to attract people to our beaches. She recalled attending some of the venues during the Olympics Games held in and around Los Angeles and the excitement that they brought to the City, and she hoped this project would do the same.

Chairman Miller thanked Chris Pook for bringing his presentation before the MAC, as these events will fall within the Tidelands.

BUREAU MANAGER'S REPORT

Marina Operations Report

Mark Sandoval gave the report for the Marine Bureau Major Accomplishments, the Monthly Fund Budget Report for ABM/LBSM/RBH, the Total Vessels In and Out by Marina, and the Slip Status Report for the month of March.

- Mark Sandoval reviewed changes to the monthly report, explaining the Slip Status Report as it compares to the rebuild and the attrition program. He also explained the "to date" Waiting List Summary.
- The Bureau will begin calling off the Waiting List to fill 200 slips. Those on the Transfer List will be called first.

Maintenance Operations Report

Jeff Edwards gave the Marine Maintenance status report for the month of March.

- Work requests for electrical and plumbing have increased. Some of the increase in electrical work requests can be attributed to the recent storms. He explained that the infrastructure in ABM is aging, and with this rainy season there was a significantly larger number of electrical problems.
- Maintenance staff is doing a better job of logging work requests.
- Commissioner Malbon commented that the new format of the status report is excellent and understandable.

Marine Safety Report

Chief Mark Boone gave the Marine Safety status report for the month of March.

- Due to the rainy weather, there were 193 emergency pumpouts this year as compared to 44 last year.
- Information has gone out to returning members of the Junior Lifeguard Program.
- Lifeguard tryouts have been completed.
- Marine Safety will be submitting another application to the Department of Boating and Waterways for new boat engines to replace existing ones.
- Purchase orders have been submitted for dry suits, facemasks, and dive tanks.
- Marine Safety is facing a budget reduction of 950 thousand dollars, due to problems with the Tidelands budget.
- Lifeguards responded and transported from the vessel Enterprise, a local fishing vessel, a man who was in a diabetic coma.

Marine Patrol Report

Sergeant Keleher reported on Marine Patrol activities for the month of March.

- Sergeant Keleher reported that staff did a great job during the recent storms, working shifts of 12 hours on and 12 hours off, due to the size of the crew and coverage needed.
- Chairman Miller remarked that he was concerned about the Peninsula during the 4th of July, and asked Sergeant Keleher to keep the MAC informed of any traffic problems. Sergeant Keleher responded that he would keep the MAC updated.

Executive MAC

- The TA program was discussed.

Operations Committee

- The TA program was discussed.

Facilities Committee

Commissioner Reed reported on Facilities Committee issues:

- Commissioner Reed reported on the Aqua Link dock in ABM. He said that initially there was a plan to have a wing come off the dock in front of Khourys Restaurant, but it was determined that that plan did not make sense. He said that Long Beach Transit now wants to put the ADA dock in a location where it will stick out even more than with the first plan.

Mark Sandoval explained that Long Beach Transit wants a five-foot freeboard and that they are looking at cutting off a portion of the existing dock to build a higher dock. The new dock will be at the location that the Aqua Link operates from now. Long Beach Transit is engineering the dock, but the Department will make the ultimate decision.

Commissioner Malbon reported that the Committee recommends that the MAC have the opportunity to review the conceptual design before money is spent on engineering it.

Mark Sandoval said that he will send an email to Public Works and Christine Shippey, letting her know MAC's recommendation that they be given the opportunity to review a conceptual design before money is spent on engineering it.

- Chairman Miller voiced his concerns regarding the Bixby Park Amphitheatre. MAC approved the concept last May, however, the project has been stopped because the City did not provide grading plans. Concerns are that it might reduce visual resources and the scenic view of the Queen Mary. The Coastal Commission stated that the project might reduce peak beach use.
- Chairman Miller thanked Mark Sandoval for hosting a great opening day for the new docks on Dock Y in LBSM. He said that the new docks look great and that they are very stable.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

- None

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting is set for May 12, 2005, at 2:30 p.m.

cc: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
City Clerk